POL 14 VIETS

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(1161)

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Saigon 6906 9-26-67

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 12/23
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7579
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4345
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2606

UNCLAS SAIGON 6906

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM DANANG SEP 26 DANANG 183
REPEATED YOUR STA:

QTE

REF : DANANG 183

SUBJ: SUMMARY OF SPEECH BY GEN HOANG XUAN LAM, I CORPS COMMANDER

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SPEECH MADE BY GEN LAM AT SEPT 18

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FLAG AND HONORS CEREMONY:

2. LAST SATURDAY, I ATTENDED A CONFERENCE OF THE ARMED FORCES COUNCIL IN SAIGON, FOLLOWING THIS CONFERENCE, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THREE THINGS.

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A. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS:

(1) AS YOU KNOW, THERE WERE FORMERLY TWO SEPARATE MILITARY CANDIDATES. HOWEVER, THROUGH OUR INSISTANCE, GENERAL THIEU AND GENERAL KY AGREED TO UNITE TOGETHER, AND THEY HAVE WON IN THE ELECTIONS WITH 35 PERCENT OF THE BALLOTS. THE CIVILIAN CANDIDATES HAVE FAILED BECAUSE THE REMAINING 65 PERCENT OF THE BALLOTS WERE DIVIDED AMONG TEN CANDIDATES. HAD THEY UNITED TOGETHER, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ELECTED.

(2) IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS SOME DIFFERENCE OF POLITICAL OPINION BETWEEN GENERAL THIEU AND GENERAL KY, BUT WE HAVE NO REASON FOR SUPPORTING THIS ONE OR THE OTHER. WE MUST BEAR IN MIND OUR MAIN MISSION WHICH CONSISTS OF DEFEATING THE COMMUNISTS

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AND BRINGING A DECENT LIFE TO THE PEOPLE. WE SHOULD BE UNITED, AND DISREGARD THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY THE NEWSPAPERS ON THIS MATTER.

B. NO NEW PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS:

SOME CANDIDATES ACCUSED THE RECENT ELECTIONS OF BEING FRAUDULENT, AND REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO ORGANIZE NEW PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. I CAN SAY THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE NOT FRAUDULENT, BECAUSE IF THEY WEREKP THE MILITARY CANDIDATES WOULD HAVE WON BY A LARGER MAJORITY. SO THE REQUEST FOR NEW ELECTIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED: WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SACRAFICE MORE LIVES FOR ORGANIZING NEW ELECTIONS. BESIDES INSURING SECURITY TO ELECTIONS, THE ARMED FORCES HAVE OTHER IMPORTANHBMISSIONS TO FULFILL, SUCH AS TERRITORIAL PACIFICATION AND REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT.

C. THE BUDDHIST CHART:

(1) THE NEW BUDDHIST CHART WAS NOT INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE BUDDHIST CHURCH IS DIVIDED INTO TWO FACTIONS

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OPPOSING EACH OTHER, AND ONE OF THE TWO FACTIONS PREPARED A NEW CHART BECAUSE MEMBERS LIKED TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN BUDDHIST CLERGY INSTITUTE AND THEIR OWN INSTITUTE FOR THE PROPAGATION OF BUDDHISM. WHAT GENERAL THIEU DID WAS TO RATIFY, AS THE CHIEF OF STATE, THE NEW CHART PRESENTED BY THE LATTER BUDDHIST FACTION.

(2) THIS IS AN INTERNAL OF THE BUDDHIST CHURCH, AND THE ARMED FORCES HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE. TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, THE BUDDHIST CHURCH MUST UNITE THE DIFFERENT FACTIONS AND COME UP WITH ANOTHER CHART. THIS CHART WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE NATION ASSEMBLY AND THE FUTURE PRESIDENT FOR RATIFICATION.

D. CONCLUSION:

(1) I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE PROBLEMS, AND AVOID DISCUSSING THEM BASED ON THE MISLEADING INFORMATION PUBLISHED ON NEWSPAPERS. IF ANY OF YOU NEEDS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, YOU ARE WELCOME
TO MY OFFICE FOR FURTHER INQUIRY.

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(2) ON THE MILITARY SITUATION, IT IS EXPECTED THAT, WITH THE MONSOON SEASON, VC WILL BE MORE ACTIVE. I CORPS WILL SOON GET ADDITIONAL FORCES TO CONDUCT LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONS AND DESTROY THE ENEMY. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I CORPS STAFF PERSONNEL WILL WORK HARDER TO SUPPORT COMBAT UNITS. UNDISCIPLINED PERSONNEL WILL BE PUNISHED AND TRANSFERRED TO OUTPOSTS.

KOREN UNQTE BUNKER

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